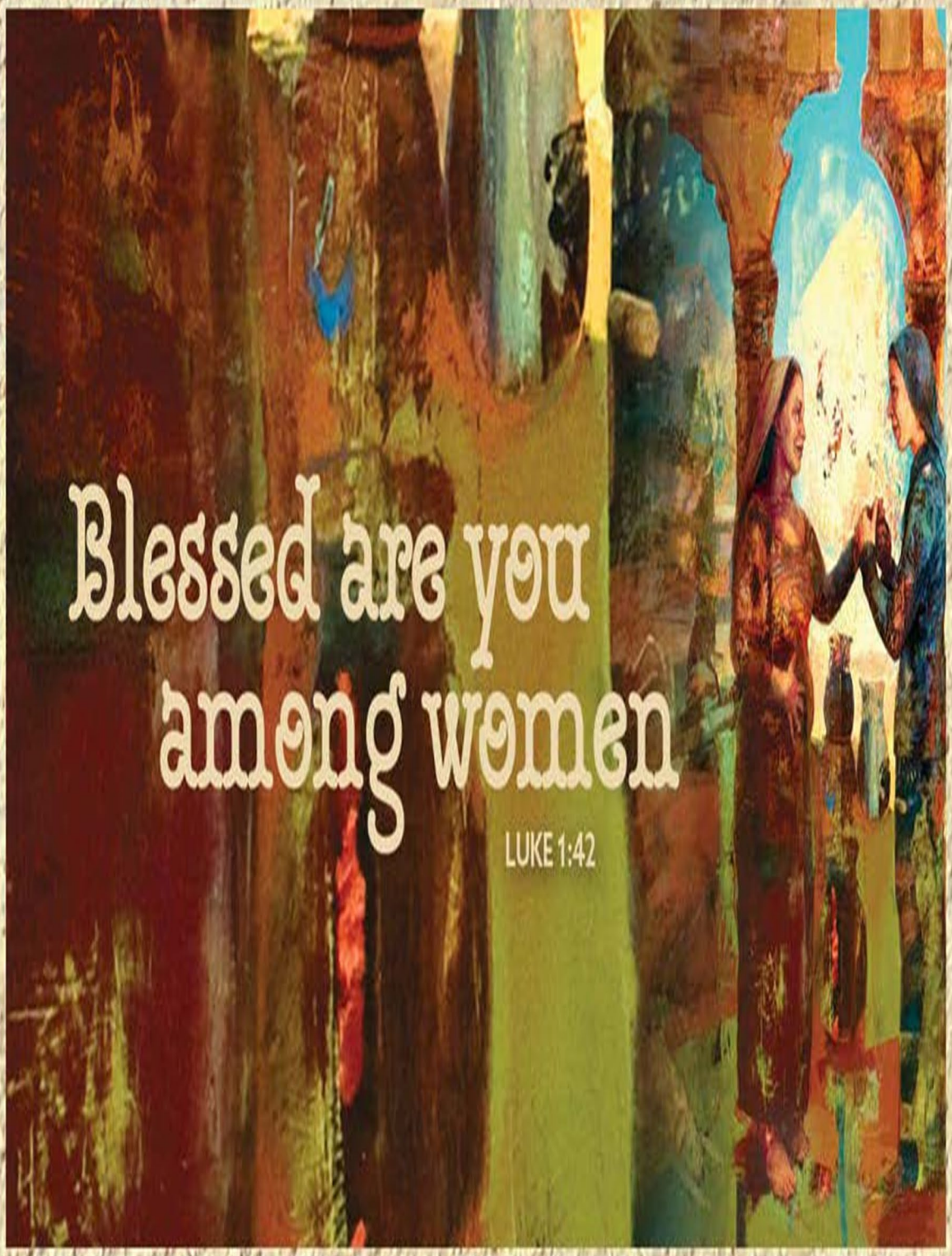


Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Ypsilanti, MI
December 22, 2024 – 4th Sunday of Advent

Worship Key – *P: Pastor A: Assisting Ministers* ***C: Congregation***

PRELUDE

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

INTRODUCTION

We learn in Advent to wait. We do not have immediate satisfaction of our desire for the salvation of the world. The four weeks of Advent give us time to contemplate the enormity of Christ's identity.

Advent is a time to extend our vision beyond what we can see. It is about the end times, the ending of all things, the ultimate fruition that God promises each of us through baptism. Let us explore our hopes based in the visions God's word has given us. Let us listen to the readings and lyrics of our hymns of Advent to fill our minds and hearts with the unbelievable power of God to make the impossible come to be.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: The Lord tells us to be watchful for his coming, keeping our lamps lighted and our hearts clean. Therefore, let us confess to the Lord.

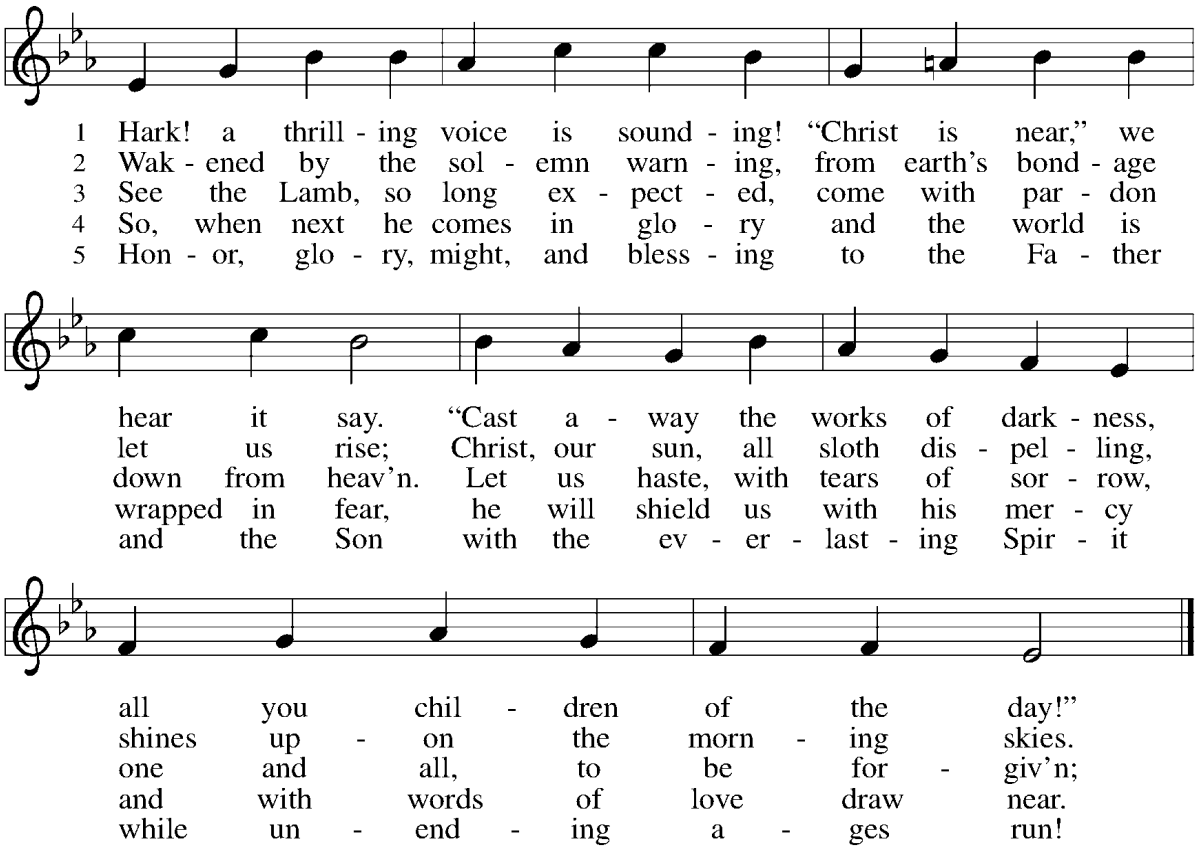
Silence for reflection.

P: God of all:
C: We prepare our hearts for the coming of your Son, confessing our sins, acknowledging our attraction to a godless world that does follow Christ. Forgive our sins, cleanse our hearts, and keep us faithful for the promised coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: God sent his Son, the Babe of Bethlehem, to show his infinite love and forgiveness for all. Your sins are forgiven in the holy name of + Christ who came and will come again.
C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN — ELW 246

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!"


1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther
hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,
down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,
wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it
all you chil - dren of the day!"
shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
one and all, to be for - giv'n;
and with words of love draw near.
while un - end - ing a - ges run!

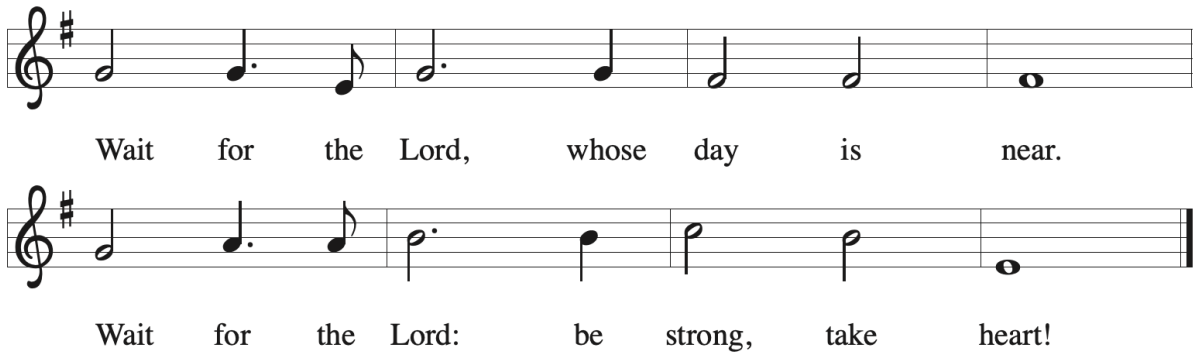
Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
Music: MERTON , William H. Monk, 1823–1889

GREETING

P: The grace of our coming Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the father, and the communion of the awakening Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

HYMN — ELW 262

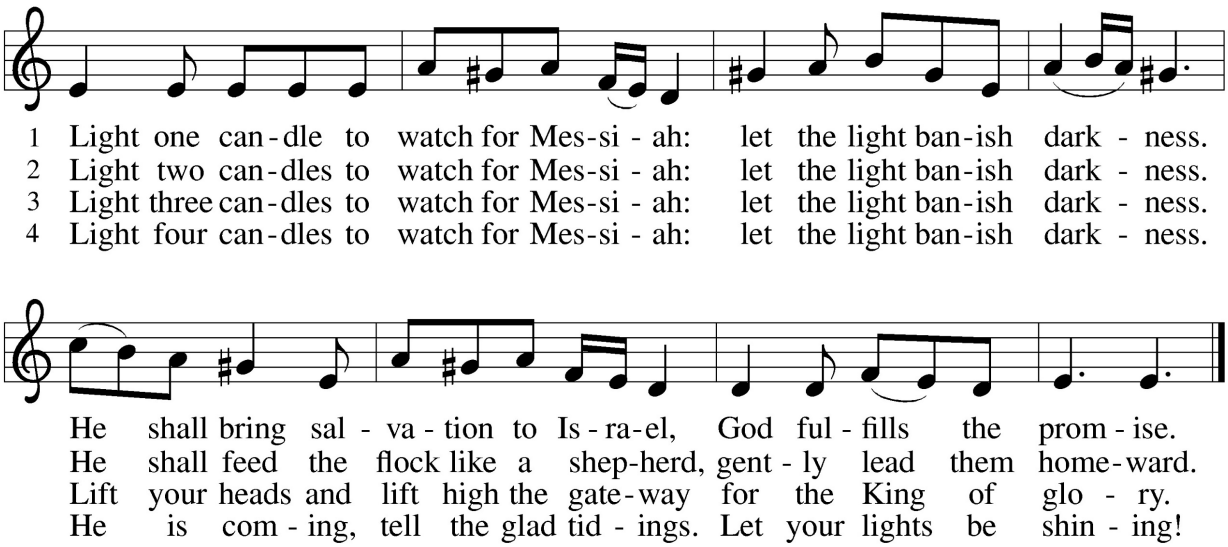
"Wait for the Lord"

Text: Taizé Community
Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
Text and Music ©1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

P: Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us. As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved. O house of David, come,

C: let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.

ADVENT HYMN – *"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (v.1-4)*


1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si-ah: let the light ban-ish dark-ness.
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si-ah: let the light ban-ish dark-ness.
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si-ah: let the light ban-ish dark-ness.
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si-ah: let the light ban-ish dark-ness.
He shall bring sal-va-tion to Is-ra-el, God ful-fills the prom-ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent-ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo-ry.
He is com-ing, tell the glad tid-ings. Let your lights be shin-ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Cast: Greeter: Harper Lehto

Narrators: Emma McIntee and Liliana Thompson

Mary: Allie Droste

Joseph: Ethan Meadows

Three Wisepeople: Elliott Taylor, Makayla Sperle, Liliana Thompson

Wiseperson 1: Makayla Sperle

King Herod: Melanie Sperle

Angel 1: Clara Taylor

Angel 2: Ally Meadows

LITANY FOR CHRIST'S COMING

P: As the days of Advent hasten on and we draw nearer to the day of Christ's coming, let us pray with fervent hearts for the needs of the world:

C: Come, Lord Jesus, and do not tarry.

P: Lord Christ, in joy and anticipation, we await your coming with lamps lighted and hearts aglow with faith.

C: Come now and illumine the whole universe.

P: All creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.

C: Come soon and save those who wait in darkness.

P: The suffering and the poor look to you for their hope.

C: Come and raise us to glory in your presence.

P: The troubled and oppressed have nowhere to turn but you.

C: Come quickly and banish the powers of evil and darkness around us.

P: The sick and weary, the dying and faint-hearted cry out in their despair.

C: Come and bring us eternal wholeness and health.

P: Even the martyrs and the blessed dead make their plea, "O Lord, how long?"

C: Come now and give us eternal life.

P: The Spirit and the Church cry out:

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: All those who await your appearance pray:

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: The whole creation pleads:

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Hearken to the prayers of your servants, Lord Jesus. By the sign of the manger of Bethlehem, give us hope in the promise of your return.

C: Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

A: A reading from Micah.

2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.
3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought
forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.
4 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth,
5a and he shall be the one of peace.

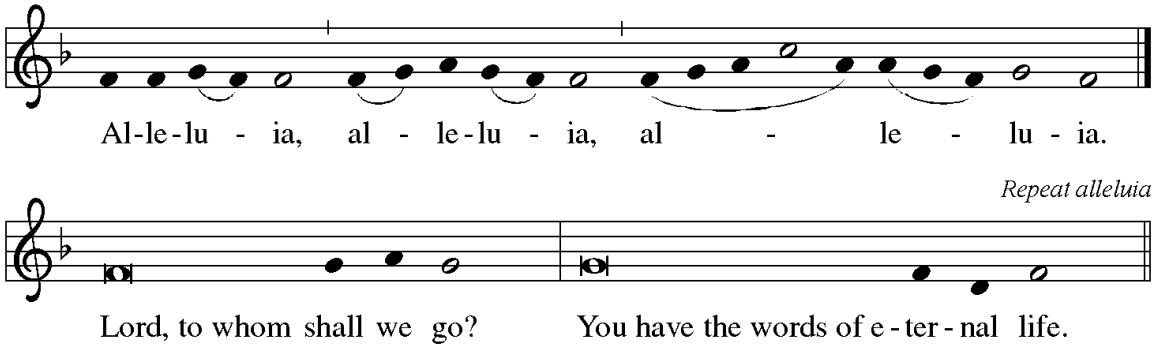
A: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55

46b My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
47 my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48 **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
49 you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.
50 **You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.**
51 You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,
52 **casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.**
53 You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
54 **You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,**
to remember the promise of mercy,
55 the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-55

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

P: The Gospel according to Luke.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill
country, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted
Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb.
And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and exclaimed with a loud cry,
"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43 And why
has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44 For as soon
as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And
blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to
her by the Lord."

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48 for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;
50 indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

[52] He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
[53] he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
[54] He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
[55] according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

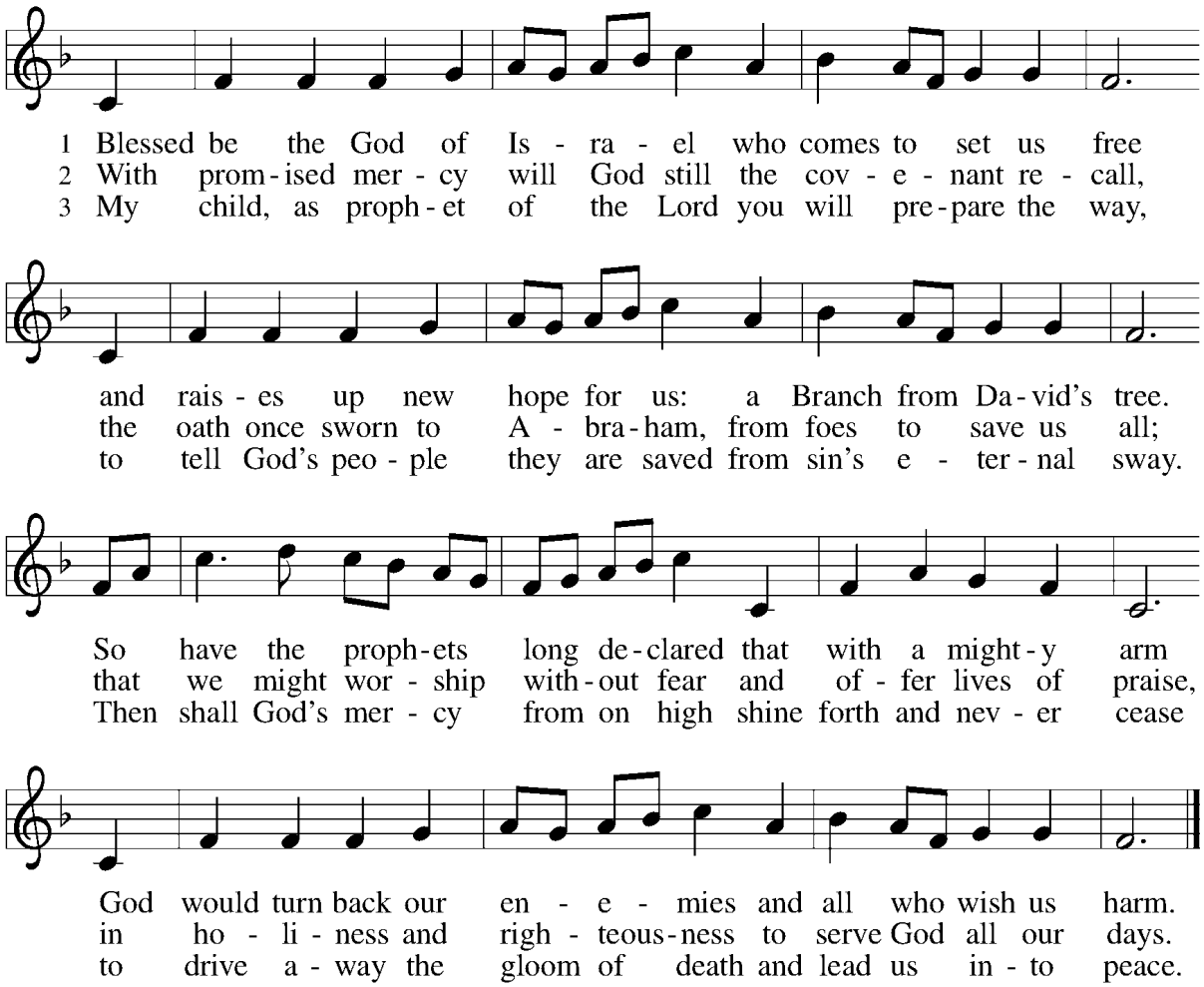
P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Joshua

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 250

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,
and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.
So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease
God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79
Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune
Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

APOSTLES' CREED

A: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

A: God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities; Riverside, Frog Island, and Waterworks parks, the Huron River and Ford Lake. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill especially John, Cora, Mary, Corky, and Lynn. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For what else does this congregation pray? Prayers may be said aloud, typed into the live chat box, or silently in your hearts…

Brief Pause for the congregation to respond.

A: God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

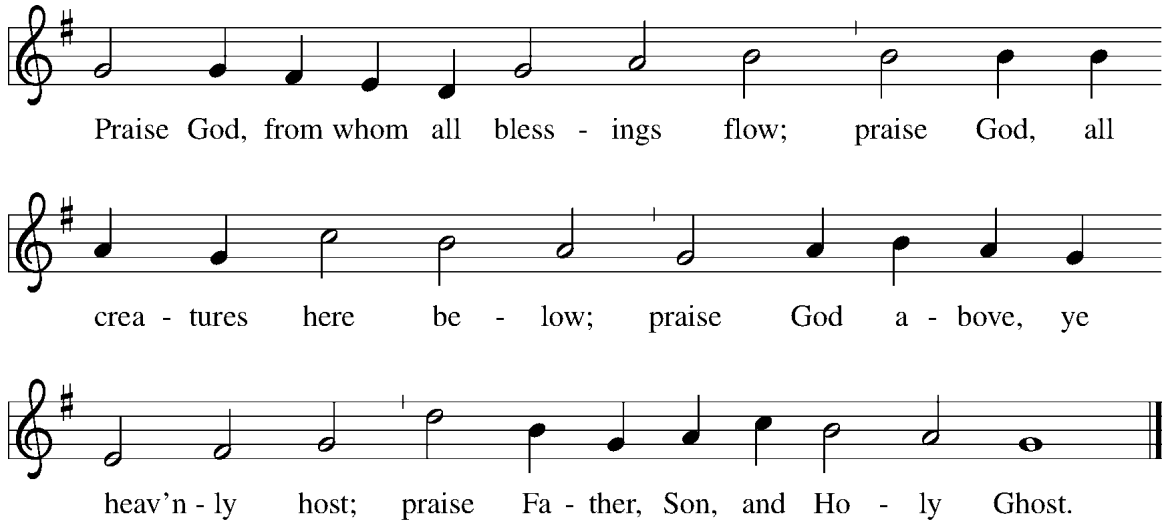
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Youth Choir *"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"*

OFFERING HYMN – *"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"*


Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Coming Savior,

C: Accept the offerings we bring this day, the work of our hands, the gifts of our labor, our lives to serve you. Gladden our hearts as we watch for your coming and help us to share that gladness with all. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord is coming soon!

C: His Advent is drawing near!

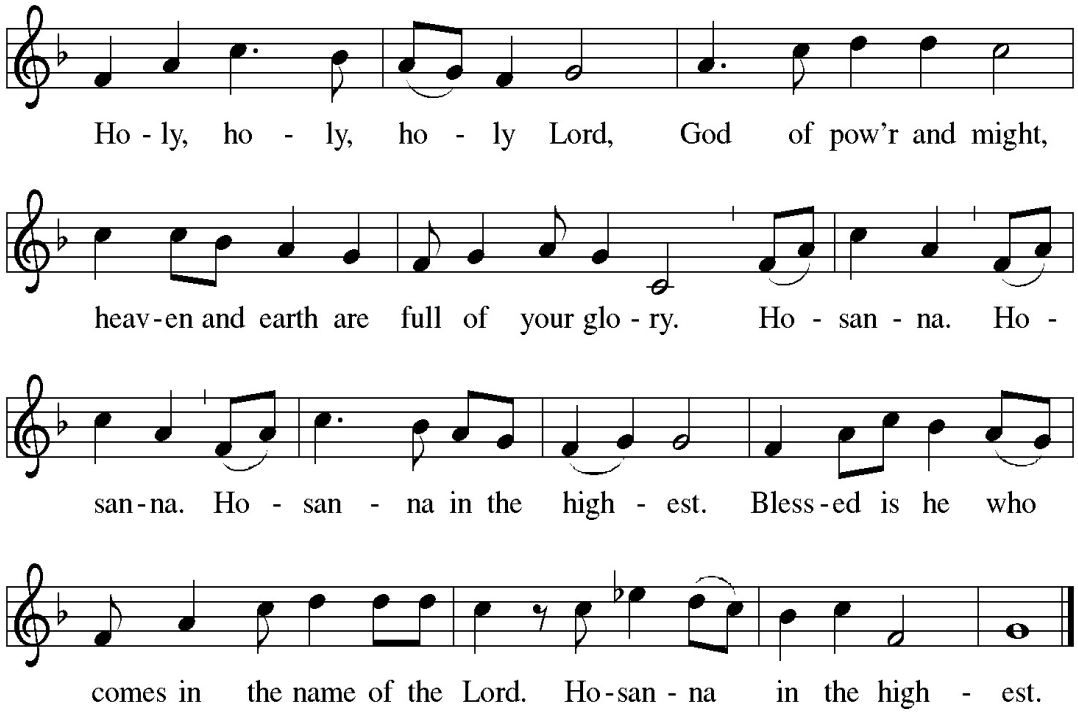
P: Therefore let us give him our thanks and praise.

C: And call upon his presence at our Advent table.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Blessed are you, O God, King of glory. You sent your only Son, Jesus Christ, into the darkness of our world to be a light of love among us.

In weakness, he took on our flesh in the form of a child to live and grow as one of us. In weakness and strength, he showed forth your love and followed your call, even to death upon a cross for the sake of our sins. Then you raised him from the dead to reign with you in glory and promised his return to bring us into your everlasting kingdom. For all this, we thank you, O God. We live in that hope and await his coming again, raising our voices in fervent prayer.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Be with us at our table, O God, in our eating and in our drinking, that the Spirit of hope is kindled in our hearts and in our lives, uniting us in him who came and will come again, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

The presiding minister may introduce the Lord's Prayer.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

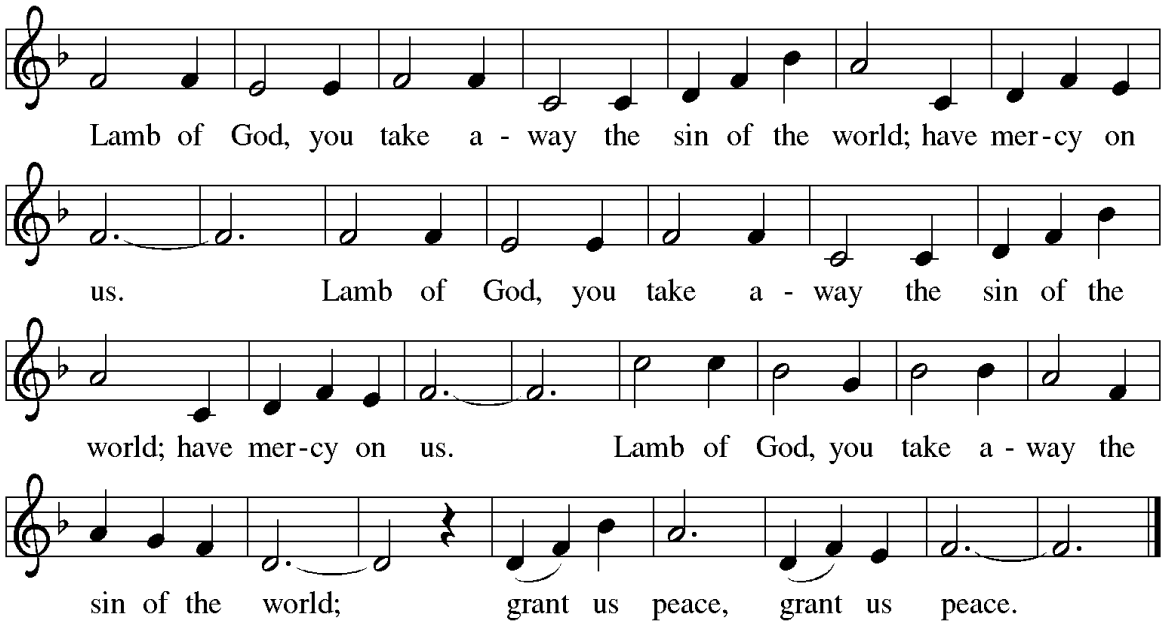
C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: This is the body of the One who was foretold by the prophets. This is the blood of Him who will return for you at the end of time.

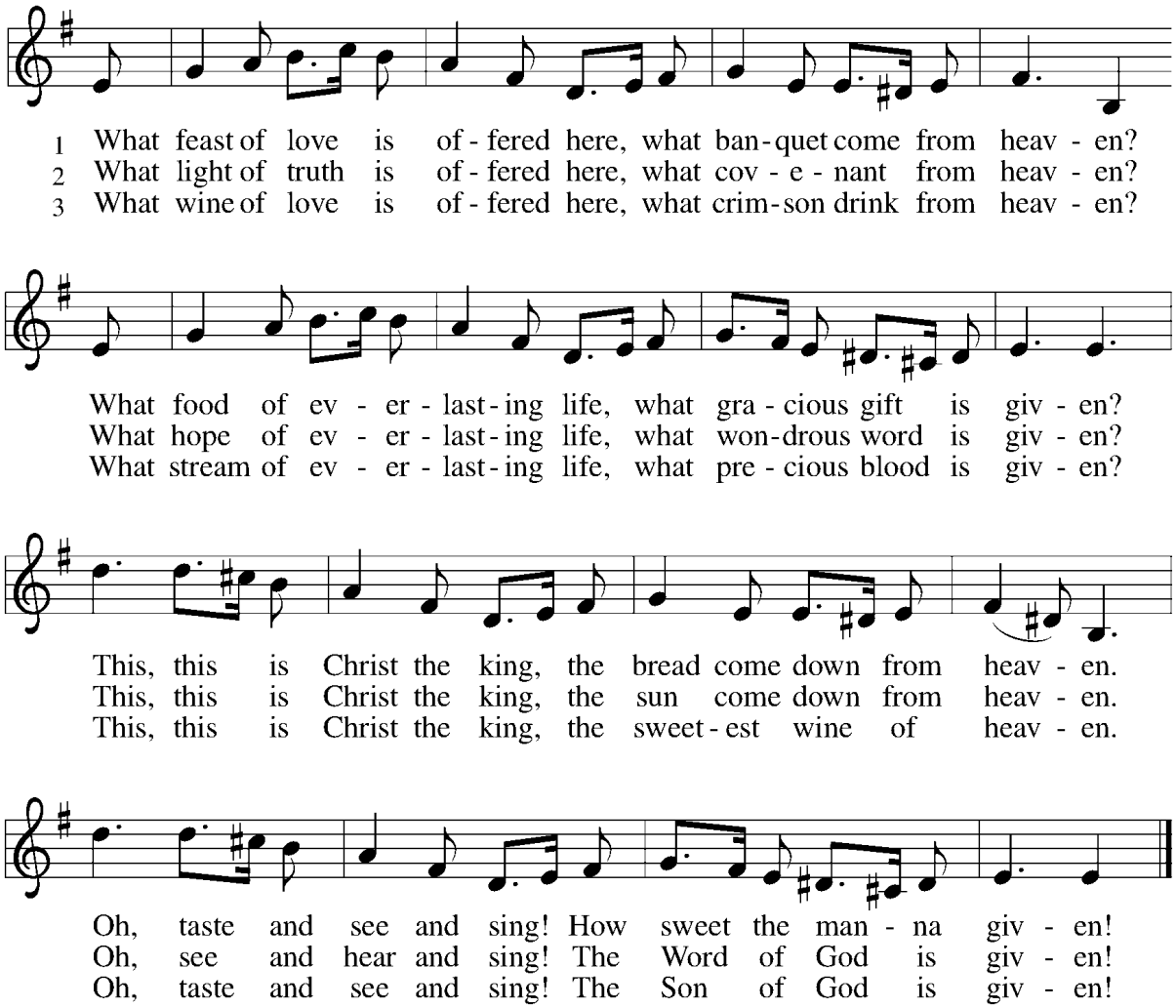
C: Come to us now, O Lord, in the breaking of bread. As once you were born in a manger in Bethlehem, come to us again in the manger of our hands and hearts. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD CANTICLE


Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 487

"What Feast of Love"

1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?
2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim - son drink from heav - en?
What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?
This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.
Text © 1993 Delores Dufner OSB. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

P: May this meal strengthen us to love each other and our neighbors as we wait for the coming of your Son, Jesus. Grant this through Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

C: Lord Jesus, thank you for coming to us through the sacrament of this holy supper. May your presence give us patience and peace in this holy season and make us eager for your return when you will gather all the faithful in your heavenly kingdom. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

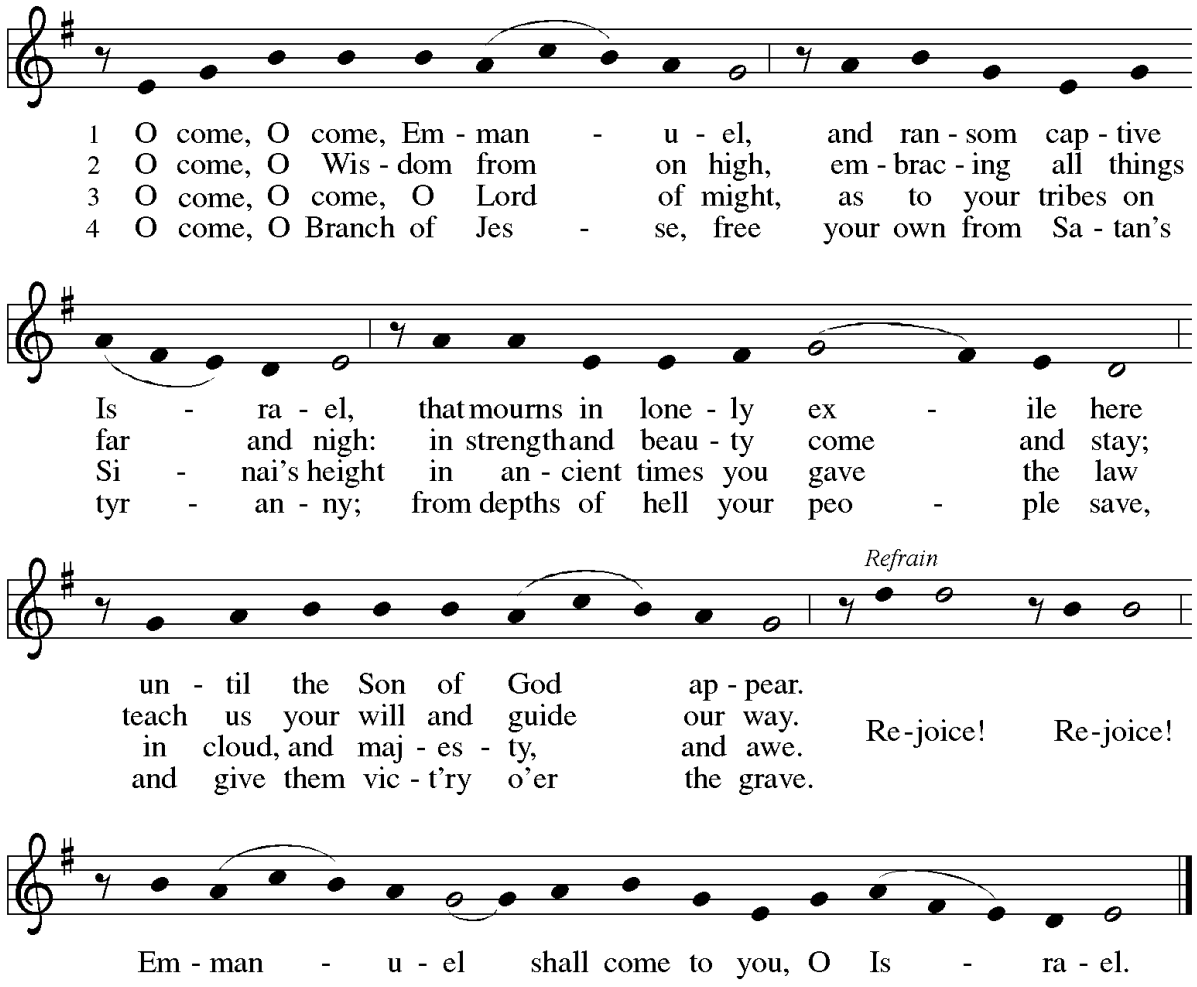
BLESSING

P: In all your Advent preparations, remain watchful with your eyes on Christ, whose birth in a manger is but a promise of his coming again in glory. And may the blessing of God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN — ELW 257 (v.1-4)

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"


1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,
Refrain
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way.
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
Re-joice! Re-joice!
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

DISMISSAL

A: The Lord is coming soon. Come, Lord, and do not delay.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! If this is your first time with us, please add your name and information to our Guest book located in the Narthex (Lobby), we would love to connect with you.

*Hearing assistance devices and cushions are available in the back pew. Please help yourself!
*Children's bulletins available, please see an usher.
*Printed copies of the Newsletter are in the magazine holder in the Narthex.
**Christ in Our Home* devotionals (January - March) can be found in the Narthex.
*Hand Sanitizers can be found in the Narthex and hanging at the end of the pews.

Please remember to wear your Name Tag

It's a help for visitors and folks you may not have seen for a while. If you need a new Name tag, please let Jennifer know.

Christmas Eve Services

There will be a Christmas Eve service at 6:00pm and 10:00pm. Poinsettias can be picked up after the 10pm service.

2025 Altar Flower Sign-up

The 2025 Altar flower sign-up has been put up on the bulletin board outside the office. Please sign-up for your date and turn in the form and monies in the offering plate or office mailbox. Thank you!

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation class will meet on the 22nd of December from 11:30am -1:00pm.

Bible Study

Bible Study will be off for Christmas and New Year's Day. Our next class will be on January 8th.

Worship Volunteers Needed!

Sign up on the sheet outside the office or call the office (734-482-7121). Or through sign-up genius. Assisting Ministers - Click here or Scan QR code

Ways to Give: Giving can be done online by clicking here. Or mail checks to: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 201 N. River St., Ypsilanti, MI 48198.
Text to Give: Text 734-548-9438. Simply text the amount you would like to give and follow the prompts.
Paypal: Select payment type "Friends and Family" using emmanuelypsi@gmail.com. Please indicate account (general fund, flowers, memorials, etc.) where it says add message.
Mobile App: Download the Vanco Payments Mobile app for free from Google Play. In the app, select your fund and amount, enter a payment method and complete the donation.

Blessing Bags
The bags are located outside the office, the women's bags have a purple ribbon and the men's bags have a blue ribbon. Please, Be a Blessing and take a Bag.

Many thanks for the support that we have received in the past for the Blessing Bags for those less fortunate. We are looking to replenishing our supply of Blessing Bags for the winter. Below are some of the items needed to replenish the next group of bags for distribution:

Toothbrushes & toothpaste, Tissues, Toilet Paper, Sanitary Products for women, Gloves, hand warmers, Washcloths & soap, combs, small size deodorant, Shampoo, Conditioner, Hand lotion, safety pins, socks, hats, scarves, hand sanitizer, Juice boxes, Granola bars, Crackers & Cheese, Pudding, Jello Cups, Tea bags, Individual Instant coffee packets, Instant Oatmeal, Individual packages of nuts or other snack items, disposable cups, and plastic ware. Also, monetary gifts are welcome to enable us to purchase bus tokens, and any other necessary items. Individually wrapped items are preferred, but we are grateful for whatever you share.

There is an area outside the office for donations. And if you'd like to join us when we replenish the bags we would welcome your assistance. Please contact anyone on Membership for more information. Gratefully, Terri, Monica, Judy, & Linda

This Week at Emmanuel

Sunday, December 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent
Children's Pageant

- Handbell Choir 8:45am
- **Worship 10:00am**
- Coffee Hour 11:00am – Noon
- **Confirmation Class 11:30am – 1:00pm**
- Bethel Service 12:00pm

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

- **Worship 6:oopm and 10:00pm**

Wednesday, December 25 – Merry Christmas!
Office Closed

Friday, December 27

- NA Meeting 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Sunday, December 29 – First Sunday of Christmas

- **Worship 10:00am**
- Coffee Hour 11:00am – Noon
- Bethel Service 12:00pm

The flowers on the altar today are given to the Glory of God.

For those with young children: Emmanuel's "Pray-Ground," located at the front of the church, was established as a positive, welcoming experience for children in church. Many churches have begun using this feature, which gives small children a space to squirm, quietly play with soft toys, books, and do arts and crafts. Parents may want to sit nearby to accompany children, but don't worry about noise—worship leaders have microphones! We encourage everyone with little ones to give this a try.

Prayers requested for: John, Cora, Mary, Corky, and Lynn.

Links:
Livestream Worship - https://www.youtube.com/@emmanuelypsi
Giving Online - Online donation
Clothes Closet - ClothesCloset@emmanuelypsi.org
Food Pantry - FoodPantry@emmanuelypsi.org

Serving in Worship:
Interim Pastor..... Rev. Joshua Rinas
Minister of Worship Music..... David Meitzler
Minister of Choral Conducting..... Jamie Gallupe
Assisting Minister..... Peter Walline

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You are welcome to connect to our wi-fi network – Emmanuel Guests

Contact us at info@emmanuelypsi.org Visit us at www.EmmanuelYpsi.org
Or call us at 734-482-7121 Or @emmanuelypsi on Facebook